

(1) *Preliminary Report on the Crinoids obtained in the Port Phillip Biological Survey.*

By P. H. Carpenter, D.Sc., F.R.S.

In the Summer Season of 1887-8, a number of Crinoids were dredged in the outer stations of Port Phillip, and from outside the Heads, all of them by Mr. J. Bracebridge Wilson.

Twenty-nine specimens were forwarded to Dr. P. H. Carpenter, F.R.S., who has obligingly sent us early information, notwithstanding his pre-occupation with other work.

Dr. Carpenter considers that five species of Comatulæ are represented, viz :—

Antedon pumila, Bell. 14 specimens.

A. wilsoni, Bell. 4 specimens.

A. macronema, Müll. sp. 2 specimens.

A. sp. nov. (prob.) 5 specimens.

Actinometra trichoptera (Vall.) Müll. sp. 4 specimens.

A. pumila was described by Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell, in the *Alert Report*, from Port Jackson. By some confusion, when he received, later on, Port Phillip specimens from Mr. Wilson, similar to those sent to Dr. Carpenter, he described them as new, under the title of *A. incommoda*. In a recent letter to Mr. Wilson, Prof. Bell writes :—“ I am sorry to say that *Antedon incommoda* is a synonym of *A. pumila* from Port Jackson. There will be a note on the subject in the next *Annals*.” (A.M.N.H., March 1889).

Dr. Carpenter adds, that the originals, both of *A. pumila* and *A. wilsoni*, and also of *Actinometra trichoptera*, were sent to Prof. Bell by Mr. Wilson. They were not known from Port Phillip before Mr. Wilson's dredgings.

The novelties of our consignment to Dr. Carpenter are, the first record of *Antedon macronema* from Port Phillip, and the occurrence of a form, which “ I believe to be a new species ; but it may turn out to be only a strongly marked variety of *A. pumila*.”

Dr. Carpenter adds, “ I have a large number of undescribed species in hand from various localities and collections ; and as soon as I have finished the Report on the *Blake Comatulæ* for Agassiz, I shall tackle them for the Linnæan Society ; and I shall take the opportunity then of properly figuring your *A. wilsoni*, and also *A. pumila*.

"I wish very much that you could get me some larvæ of *A. macronema*. I want very much to study the development of the calyx, which is very Jurassic in its general characters."

The communication with Dr. Carpenter was made by Mr. Dendy, on behalf of the Committee.

(2) *Preliminary Report on a Collection of Alcyonaria and Zoantharia from Port Phillip.*

By S. J. HICKSON, M.A., D.Sc.

In preparing this report of a small collection of Alcyonarians, sent to me by Professor Spencer, of Melbourne, on behalf of the Port Phillip Biological Survey Committee of the Royal Society of Victoria, I have met with greater difficulty than I expected. The numerous genera and species of Stoloniferous Alcyonaria, which have been named, are so imperfectly described and figured that it is almost impossible to identify specimens without seeing the type specimens. The greatest possible confusion exists as to the characters which separate the different genera and species, and consequently it is frequently found that similar specimens, probably belonging to one and the same species, are described by different authorities under different specific and generic names.

In the course of the last few months, I have carefully gone through the literature of the subject, and I propose shortly to communicate to the Zoological Society a paper dealing with the classification of the group.

Very few specimens of the genera Alcyonium and Ammothea have as yet been received in this country from Australian waters, and it might have been thought desirable to consider the two specimens (20 and 21) sent to me to be new species. I hope to be able to justify the course I have taken, in referring them to the species mentioned in the report.

The same difficulty is met with in considering the position of the Zoantharian genera, Palythoa and Epizoanthus, as mentioned above in the case of the Stoloniferous Alcyonaria. I believe there is not sufficient ground for the maintenance of many of the species which have recently been described.

(1)* *Virgularia lowenii* (Kölliker). "Anat. System. beschreibung der Alcyonaria," p. 182 *et seq.*

This specimen closely corresponds with the description of the species given by Kölliker.

* The numbers refer to those on the specimens sent to Dr. Hickson.